DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. II NO. 10 MAY 8th 1953 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

GERMAN WORKERS APPEAL TO BRITAIN

"Dèmand 4 Power Conference"

Workers in a number of East German factories have addressed appeals to their colleagues in Britain, calling on them to support the demand for Four Power Conference for the peaceful solution of the German problem.

The workers of the Finow Steel Works, near Frankfurt-on-Oder fifty miles east of Berlin who wrote to the steel workers employed at Stewarts and Lloyds, Corby, Northhants, stated:

"Demand that the Labour Members of Parliament support the proposal made by the Peoples Chamber of the German Democratic Republic for the summoning of a Four Power Conference. Only such a conference can lead to peaceful understanding between the peoples, and guarantee the British people, too, a life free from the threat of war and destruction."

The Works Peace Committee of the nationally owned textile machinery works at Chemnitz in Saxony, in a letter to the workers of the Foster, Clay und Ward stocking factory at Mansfield, Nottingham, England, stated:

"The speedy summoning of a conference of the Four Great Powers is the only way of guaranteeing that German unity will be restored in a peaceful manner, and peace in Europe thus ensured."

These messages from East German workers to British workers, followed the dispatch of an appeal from the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic addressed to all members of the British House of Commons.

The appeal pointed out the danger of the renazification and remilitarisation of West Germany, and continued:

"We express the belief that, to achieve this ultimate aim, they will join with us in demanding the early convocation of a Four Power Conference."

(The full text of the People's Chamber message was printed in GERMAN REPORT dated April 24th 1953)

Second Front for Peace

"During the war the universal and justified demand of the British people for a Second Front in the West to parallel the mighty Soviet offensive which was smashing the nazi armies had to hammer against the anti-Soviet reaction in top governmental and military circles. Today there is no less need to sound the demand for a Second Front in the West for Peace."

"Labour Monthly" London, May 1953

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Amtsblatt

der Stadtverwaltung Düsseldorf

Nummer 14 — Düsseldorf, den 31. März 1933 — 13. Jahrgang

Keine städtischen Aufträge mehr an jüdische Geschäfte.

Z.U. 2499/32. Düsseldorf, den 30 März 1933.

Bei notwendigen Anschaffungen für städtische Aemter, Dienststellen und Betriebe sind die Warenhäuser und jüdischen Geschäfte nicht zu berücksichtigen. Etwa bestehende Verträge mit Warenhäusern, jüdischen Geschäften oder Unternehmern sind mit sofortiger Wirkung zu kündigen. Auch sind alle Aufträge betreffend Prozeßführung an jüdische Rechtsanwälte mit sofortiger Wirkung rückgängig zu machen.

Der Oberbürgermeister
Dr. Lehr.

(translation) **Official Notices of Dusseldorf City Council**
No. 14 **Dusseldorf March 31st 1933** 23rd Year of Issue

No more city orders for Jewish shops.

Z. U. 2499/32 Dusseldorf March 30th 1933.

In making the necessary purchases for municipal offices, departments and undertakings, no orders are to be given to department stores and Jewish shops. Any existing contracts with department stores, Jewish shops or enterprises are to be terminated forthwith. In addition all commissions for court cases which have been entrusted to Jewish lawyers are to be cancelled immediately.

Dr. Lehr, Lord Mayor

Who is Dr Lehr? Turn to page 7...

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION UP 13% IN E. GERMANY

But Plan Was Not Fulfilled

Industrial production in East Germany was 13% higher in the first quarter of 1953 than in the same quarter of 1952, but the goals set in the Economic Plan for the year was not reached.

A report on the progress of the plan, issued on April 30th by the State Planning Commission stated:

"The gross production plan for industry was fulfilled only 96.2% in the first quarter of 1953. Socialist industrial enterprises fulfilled their production plan 96.7%, and raised their production 13% compared to the first quarter of 1952:

"The plan was overfulfilled in the following important branches: gas, coke, pyrites, lead ore, raw steel, rolling steel, non-ferrous rolled products, electro-steel, tin-plate, tubes, nautical diesel engines, large threshing machines, cranes, electro-locomotives, tractors, diesel oil, penicillin, artificial silk, meat.

"Despite the increase in production, the plan was not filled in the following important branches: electric power, coal, soft coal, iron ore, pig iron, copper, lead, steam turbines, vertical lathes, hydraulic presses, agricultural machinery, lorries, sulphuric acid, soda, phosphorus fertilisers, yarn, wool and cotton cloth, paper, vegetable oil, margarine, butter, fish."

The report laid the main responsibility for the non-fulfilment of the plan on the faulty work of the various ministries responsible for industrial production. The Ministry of Heavy Engineering, the State Secretariat for Coal and the State Secretariat for Chemicals were named as particularly at fault in their work.

"It must be made clear that the ministries and the factory management still work in a formal administrative manner. They do not bring the question of plan fulfilment to the attention of the workers concerned, and the public, and they do not avail themselves sufficiently of the help of the local organisations."

The report stated that at the end of the first quarter 1953 there were a total of 3789 agricultural production cooperatives in the German Democratic Republic, twice as many as at the end of 1952.

"The quarter's plan for the delivery and purchase of the agricultural produce was fulfilled with regard to meat and eggs. The plan was not fulfilled in respect of oil seed and milk, which is the reason for the non-fulfilment of the production plan for margarine and butter.

"The results of the Economic Plan in the first quarter confront all state organs and the factories with the task of making good, under all circumstances, the arrears of the first quarter, and taking steps to guarantee, in all branches and to the full, the 1953 Economic Plan, which has the force of law."

PRODUCTION STATISTICS

First quarter 1952 = 100

Iron ore	185
Copper ore	117
Pig iron	212
Pig steel	199
Power transformers	154
Metallurgical equipment	134
Cranes	193
Tractor plows	204
Tractor harrows	292
Natural and artificial silk	128
Leather shoes	120
Cement	135

A LETTER TO EISENHOWER

Stefan Heym, American best-selling novelist, author of "Hostages" and "The Crusaders" has asked for asylum in the German Democratic Republic. A full account of his action was given in GERMAN REPORT dated April 24th. Here is the letter which Stefan Heym addressed to President Eisenhower:

To the President of the United States
Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D.C.

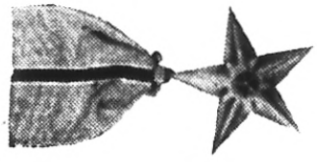
April 17th, 1953

Sir:

I hereby resign my commission as an officer in the Reserve Corps of the United States Army.

I served honorably in that Army when it fought for democracy. I cannot serve in an Army that is engaged in the kind of war the United States is waging in Korea, nor in the wars which your Government has declared itself to be contemplating. I cannot serve in an Army using disease-carrying fleas and spiders. I cannot serve in an Army marching shoulder to shoulder with condemned Nazi war criminals.

My commission is enclosed. I am also enclosing my Bronze Star Medal, given to me while I was an enlisted man in World War II, for service above and beyond the call of duty in the battle of the Bulge. I cannot keep a medal which has been dishonored in the brutal and unjust war against the Korean people.



Signed: Stefan Heym

EIGHT YEARS AFTER LIBERATION

Demonstrating For Peace & Socialism

Just eight years after Soviet troops liberated Berlin from the nazis, one million Berliners demonstrated on May 1st 1953 for the construction of Socialism in a free and democratic Germany.

The great demonstration in East Berlin was paralleled in all the towns and villages in the German Democratic Republic.

In Berlin, in perfect sunny spring weather, men, women and children in holiday mood paraded across the great Marx-Engels Platz, once the site of the palace of the Prussian Kaisers. They carried banners pledging to fight for peace, to produce more for a better life, and to protect the great victories already won in peaceful reconstruction in the German Democratic Republic.

A prominent place in the demonstration was taken by big contingents of West Berliners, who came to East Berlin to march because in West Berlin propaganda for peace and progress is suppressed. The great crowds lining the routes gave a particularly warm welcome to these thousands of West Berliners who are carrying on the fight under the most difficult conditions.

During the day, West Berlin police were out in strength, breaking into dwellings in the American, British and French sectors which dared to fly red flags. The official West Berlin police report claimed proudly that 110 red flags had been seized during the day.

In the afternoon and evening Berliners flocked to the open air dances and celebrations held on squares and in parks in all parts of East Berlin.

In a special May Day article Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht reviewed the progress made in the German Democratic Republic since the day of liberation eight years ago:

"Every Berliner recalls that eight years ago the tower of the Berlin City Hall was burning, and that in the streets of the inner city the tanks were fighting in the last battle of the heroic Soviet Army, a battle which led to the destruction of Hitlerite fascism.

"These days have gone for ever, for after the liberation by the Soviet Army the unity of the German working class was hammered out under the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party, and the firm alliance of the working class and the peasantry was formed. All patriots are today cooperating in the great work of construction.

"We are celebrating May Day in the midst of the Socialist remoulding of the nationally owned industry and of agriculture. The working class are doing creative work decisive for the construction of Socialism, by struggling for an increase in work productivity, for a reduction of costs, for an improvement of quality.

"Socialist emulation contests have made a great spurt in the past few weeks, and they show the method which we must use to overcome backwardness and break through to Socialist progress.

"This year, for the first time, many agricultural workers and peasants are demonstrating for the first time as cooperative peasants, as men who are going ahead to create the basis for Socialism in agriculture. They have abandoned the system of fields the size of handkerchiefs and now work in large-scale agricultural enterprises.

"There are today 4000 agricultural production cooperatives, and in some districts they already include between 25% and 30% of the tilled area.

"The great progress made in industry and agriculture is due, above all, to the scientific-technical help, and the supplies of raw materials and machines from the Soviet Union.

"Our successes have made our enemies realise that time is working against the reactionaries of Bonn. That is why they are using sabotage, arson and the stealing of documents in order to damage our great work of Socialist construction. Our workers give their answer by becoming ever more vigilant.

"When the working people of the German Democratic Republic demonstrate for peace, unity, democracy and Socialism, they are painfully aware that the basis for peace and democracy has as yet only been created in one part of Germany.

"In West Germany there is a struggle between the peace-loving patriotic forces and the Bonn Government which is subject to America, and which wishes to impose the Bonn Treaty, the treaty of slavery, on West Germany.

"On this May Day all peace-loving and patriotic people demonstrate for the conclusion of a peace pact between the Big Five, and for a peace treaty for Germany.

"Forward for peace, unity, democracy and Socialism under the unconquerable banner of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin!"

KARL MARX STADT

Anniversary Honour For Socialist Founder

The Saxon industrial city of Chemnitz will be re-named "Karl Marx Stadt" on May 10th in honour of the great founder of scientific Socialism.

The announcement of the renaming of Chemnitz, which is one of the historic centres of the German working-class movement, was one of the features of a special Government announcement on May 5th, marking Marx's 135th birthday.

In addition the "Order of Karl Marx" has been instituted as the highest distinction of the German Democratic Republic. The "Order of Karl Marx" will be conferred upon individuals, collective groups, institutions, factories and organisations of the German Democratic Republic which distinguish themselves particularly in the building of Socialism and the struggle for a united, democratic, independent and peace-loving Germany.

In particular the order will be conferred upon those doing outstanding deeds in the field of friendship with the Soviet and other peace-loving peoples; in developing progressive German science and art; in improving Socialist production; and in developing agricultural cooperatives.

The Government also decreed the renaming of Leipzig University as "Karl Marx University", and the establishment of a special stipendium bearing Marx's name for outstanding scholarship in the field of Marxism-Leninism.

A special series of postage stamps will also be issued in honour of the Karl Marx Year.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party called for an intensification of the Socialist emulation contests in all nationally owned factories during Karl Marx Year 1953. The great scientific works of Karl Marx should be increasingly popularised by lectures and courses, and the Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin Institute must take immediate steps to issue the collected works of Marx and Engels in book form.

"Stalin Works" in Berlin

On May 1st the big electrical apparatus factory in East Berlin was renamed "J. V. Stalin Works".

The factory used to form part of the network of factories owned by AEG, the great German electrical trust, closely connected with American General Electric.

The AEG concern cooperated whole-heartedly in Hitler's war. In January 1946 the electric apparatus factory was confiscated as the property of war criminals, and has since been producing at full speed for East Germany's peace industry.

Today the factory is the proud possessor of a modern clinic, a big clubhouse with music rooms, a billiard hall and libraries, and its own nursery school.

Cycle Tyres Halved in Price

The prices of cycle tyres and inner tubes in East Germany were slashed on April 30th, and in many cases prices were cut in half.

Gangsters Caught in East Berlin

People's Police were successful in rounding up several bands of armed gangsters in East Berlin at the end of April.

One gang, 16 strong, and armed with automatic pistols, was caught red-handed as members attempted to steal a number of valuable horses from the Barlay Circus in the centre of the city. They intended to smuggle the horses across the sector boundary into West Berlin.

Another gang specialised in stealing lorries in Democratic Berlin, loading them with goods to be smuggled, and then running them across the sector border at full speed, often knocking down and seriously injuring police patrols and passers-by in the process. This smuggling gang was led by Hans Mueller, a group leader of the "Federation of German Youth", an American-financed anti-Communist body.

RELIGION IN THE CONSTITUTION

Legal Position of East German Church

The position of religious bodies and their members in the German Democratic Republic is laid down very precisely and clearly in Articles 41 to 48 of the Constitution of the Republic. Here are the most important passages:

Article 41.

Every citizen enjoys full freedom of confession and conscience. The unhindered practice of religion is under the protection of the Republic.

The installations of religious bodies, religious exercises and religious instruction may not be misused for party-political or unconstitutional purposes.

Article 42.

Private and public rights and duties are neither limited nor affected by the practice of religion. ... Admittance to public service is irrespective of religion.

Nobody is obliged to make public his religious convictions.

Nobody may be forced to take part in a church ceremony or celebration, or a religious service, or to use a religious form of oath.

Article 43.

There is no state church. The right to come together in religious communities is guaranteed.

Article 44.

The church is guaranteed the right to provide religious instruction in the school rooms. The religious instruction will be given by persons selected by the church. Nobody may be forced to give religious instruction, nor prevented from giving such instruction. Parents or guardians decide whether children shall take part in religious instruction.

Article 45.

... The property and other rights of the religious body with regard to institutions, endowments etcetera for religious, educational and charitable purposes is guaranteed.

Article 46.

Religious bodies may conduct religious services in hospitals, prisons and other public institutions insofar as a demand exists. Nobody may be forced to take part in such services.

Article 48.

Parents or guardians make the decision with regard to membership of a religious body with regard to children until they have completed their fourteenth year. From this date the child itself makes the decision.

(Omitted passages and Articles deal with such technical matters as the registration of newly founded religious bodies, church taxes, and resignation from religious bodies.)

Rents up in West Berlin

All rents in West Berlin will be raised by a minimum of three percent on July 1st, the West Berlin Senate decreed on April 9th.

New Trade Agreement will Bring Heavy Engineering Supplies

Raw materials for the East German rolling mills and heavy engineering will be provided under the terms of a new trade agreement between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic concluded in Moscow on April 27th.

The trade agreement forsees a considerable increase in trade between the two countries compared to 1952. East Germany will receive increased quantities of butter, grain and other foodstuffs, as well as fodder and agricultural machinery to help the development of the agricultural production cooperatives.

The Soviet Union will be supplied with machinery, measuring and testing apparatus, chemicals and other industrial goods.

WIN A NEW READER

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

CHRISTIANITY AND THE STATE

By Pastor Johannes Mau, Berlin Protestant Clergyman

The enemies of our state have begun to talk about an alleged "suppression of the church" in connection with the revelations about the state of affairs in the Evangelical Internal Mission Youth Home in Magdeburg.

Everybody knows that nobody in the German Democratic Republic has anything against young Christians coming together for religious purposes. But it is good to recall the words uttered by Erich Honnecker, Chairman of the Free German Youth, at the meeting of the Central Council of the organisation:

"We reject any attempt to split the youth into Christian youth and non-Christian youth, and we reject most decisively every attempt to split the youth under the camouflage of religion."

And that is of course the decisive fact about the revelations concerning the Evangelical Home in Magdeburg. It was not just a question of the bad treatment and exploitation of crippled young people; in addition criminal pressure was exerted upon the consciences of the young people.

All sorts of things took place in this home which had nothing at all to do with Christian love; for instance the fact that the young people living there were forbidden to take part in the meetings of democratic parties and organisations; that they were forbidden to hang a picture of Wilhelm Pieck and the flag of the Free German Youth in their rooms; that young girls were forced to resign from the Free German Youth; that the young people were forced to attend Bible study and to join the organisation "Young Congregation"; and that they were forbidden to read progressive literature, and they were given hate-propaganda to read.

Unfortunately the case of the home in Magdeburg was not an isolated instance. Happenings there were typical of what is going on in other places in the "Young Congregation". These events show that there are still reactionary clergy at work, people who are consciously working against our new state and against all democratic forces, and who try to split the youth movement.

They are not content with trying to isolate the church-going youth in the "Young Congregation"; in the ranks of the "Young Congregation" there is active propaganda against the struggle for peace being waged by our people.

In Freienwalde, for instance, a church dramatic group staged a play called "Anti-Christ", and clothed the devil, who appeared in the play, in the blue shirt of the Free German Youth. There are many other examples of the way in which attempts are being made to convert the "Young Congregation" into an organisation for war propaganda and sabotage.

All citizens of the German Democratic Republic know that our Government abides strictly by the constitutional guarantees of complete freedom of religion and conscience. Nobody thinks for a moment of placing obstacles in the way of the practice of religion by the Inner Mission, other church institutions, or young Christians.

However, if these institutions and church youth organisations are misused to exert pressure upon the conscience of young people and to bring them into conflict with their state, then the reactionary church leaders should not be surprised when the democratic forces of our Republic draw the consequences and take all necessary measures to prevent further misuse of these institutions.

There is no fight in our Republic against the church and against Christianity, but only a fight against those reactionaries who indulge in sabotage and war propaganda under the mantle of Christianity. There are naturally groups of young Protestants in which such ideas can have no chance of success, and this is particularly true of those parishes where progressive pastors are at work, pastors who are in complete agreement with the basis of our democratic form of state.

"Talk of Church Struggle is Slander" — Otto Grotewohl

Allegations that measures were being taken against the church in the German Democratic Republic were slanders spread by the western war-mongers, East German Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl stated in a speech in Erfurt on April 22nd.

"There is no struggle against the church" he said. "Anybody here who wants to go to church can do so. It is nonsense to talk of a struggle against the church when the Government places several millions of marks at the disposal of the church every year. It is ridiculous to make such allegations at a time when we are granting the church 900,000 marks annually to restore damaged church edifices, and when the school buildings are put at the disposal of the church for giving religious instruction.

"Anyone who speaks under such circumstances of a struggle against the church does it only in order to set our people one against the other."

Prison for Fascist Propaganda

Pastor Brandt, Protestant clergyman from Lohmen near Schwerin in East Germany, has been sentenced to six years imprisonment for offences against Article 6 of the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic, and against Allied Control Council Directive 38 (both these laws forbid militarist and fascist propaganda).

Evidence was given that Pastor Brandt had attacked the World Peace Movement from the pulpit, hoarded food and clothing given to him for charitable distribution, and used corporal punishment in confirmation instruction, although all corporal punishment is very strictly forbidden under the laws of the German Democratic Republic.

•

Pastor Boetlar, Protestant clergyman in Farnroda, near Erfurt, in talks to members of the "Young Congregation", has levelled constant propaganda against Socialist construction in the Soviet Union. He described the great Socialist construction projects for the watering of desert areas as a sin against God, "since God created the deserts, and it is presumptuous on the part of man to try to alter this state of affairs."

•

Inspection of the library of the Evangelical Youth Home in Magdeburg, mentioned by Pastor Mau in his article on this page, showed that the shelves contained such West German books as the nazi war memoir "Curtain of Fire Round Germany" by a former SS officer named Beumelburg, books by Edwin Erich Dwinger, who was Hitler's favourite author, and song-books with fascist songs such as "We are riding against the East".

PROFILE

ERIKA BACH — JURIST AND MOTHER

In the old Germany the judges and attorneys were renowned as the most reactionary section of the population. The law courts were filled with the retarded sons of rich families, a high proportion of whom had their faces slashed and scarred by the brutal duels which were such a feature of their semi-feudal training.

It would be hard to find a greater contrast than that between these old representatives of law and order, and the new generation of judges and lawyers who work in the German Democratic Republic today.

Here is a portrait of one of them Erika Bach, prosecuting attorney in Berlin district of Friedrichshain. She is 31 years old, with a fresh, attractive face, smiling eyes and a touch of lipstick on her lips.

Erika grew up in a suburb of Berlin, in a dark, damp, basement room, where even at midday the electric light had to be kept burning. Her father, a saddler, was out of work most of her childhood.

At fourteen she left school and went to work, first in an office, and later in an airplane factory. At the end of the war in 1945, Erika found herself with her old mother to support, and looked around for a new job.

Some of her friends took the easiest way, making expeditions into the country to buy food from the farmers, and then re-selling it on the black market. Erika Bach, however, went to work as a "rubble woman", one of the many thousands who helped to restore some sort of order in the blitzed ruins of Berlin.

Her hard work and cheerfulness at a time when resignation and torpor was more usual, attracted the attention of an old Communist, his hair whitened in Hitler's concentration camp, who lived in the same house, and he often came to discuss world affairs, and the affairs of their street and their house with Erika.

All the questions that had been worrying her, — why are there wars? ... why couldn't I go to high school? ... and all the rest, suddenly found their answers, and she decided to join the Socialist Unity Party. Every day she learned more about the way society was built and the laws governing economic development.

Sometime later, she was asked whether she would like to train as a people's judge. She had left school at 14, and had, for years, done only the coarsest manual labour. The new prospect, though attractive, was by no means easy.

For a year and a quarter she worked and studied. There was so much to learn — civil law, criminal law, court procedure, history, social sciences. More than once, her head spinning with words which she had never known existed, she was on the brink of giving up, but both teachers and fellow students helped and encouraged her to keep at it.

In March 1951, she tried her first case. What she lacked in formal juridicial knowledge she could well make up by her intimate knowledge of the hardness of life itself. Eighteen month later she was charged with the responsible job which she holds today as prosecuting attorney in Friedrichshain.

Erika Bach is married and has two children. Her husband, Reinhold, an engineer, served a long prison sentence under the Nazis. At the end of the war he "rose from the ranks" to his present post as works director of a nationally-owned factory in the Berlin suburb of Koepenick. Erika Bach's mother now remains at home and helps look after the household while her daughter and son-in-law are at work.

Aside from her family, and her court acivities, Erika Bach attends the evening course of the Socialist Unity Party, where she has a chance to catch up in her study of history and economics. She also represents the Democratic Women's Federation of the Berlin City Council, and she is a member of the parent's committee in the school where her son Hans is pupil. During 1952, she still found time to work fifty voluntary three-hour shifts on the rebuilding of Berlin during 1952.

Erika Bach, with her background and her family, is just one example of the thousands of "new Germans" who provide the guarantee that a really new, democratic Germany is in the making.

TWO VIEWS ON NAZI GENERALS

"Representatives ... who have been invited to attend special demonstrations in certain Army establishments in this country ... will include Herr Doktor Speidel (Nazi General Hans Speidel, ed.)

"I do not know any reason why the former Chief of Staff of General Rommel should be under any special disability. He is the representative of an international committee which forms the foundation of our attempt to build up a western front. He is a man who has for a long time enjoyed the confidence of British and other allied military officers and has attended our manoeuvres in Germany and is generally a much respected man."

Sir Winston Churchill, British House of Commons, April 30th 1953.

"Senior German Generals have been responsible in large measure for the miseries and sufferings that have fallen on millions of men, women and children.

"Many of these men have made a mockery of the soldier's oath of obedience to military orders. When it suits their defence they say that they had to obey. When confronted with Hitler's brutal crimes, which are shown to have been within their general knowledge, they say they disobeyed.

"The truth is that they actively participated in all these crimes, or sat silent and acquiescent, witnessing the commission of crimes on a scale larger and more shocking than the world has ever had the misfortune to know."

Judgement delivered by the Nuremberg Tribunal, September 30th 1946.

THIS is Herr Doktor Lehr:

1918 LABOUR SPY – 1933 NAZI SUPPORTER 1953 BONN MINISTER

Every day the news messages from West Germany report the arrest of more men and women on charges of "treason", "action likely to cause a breach of the peace", or "insulting government officials".

A very high proportion of these fighters for peace and a better world are held for months in jail, without trial and without formal charges being laid against them.

The man ultimately responsible for the arrests, the house-searchings, and in many cases the brutal beatings and even killings, is Dr Robert Lehr, Christian Democratic Minister of the Interior in Chancellor Adenauer's Government.

Robert Lehr is in his element persecuting workers and trade unionists, and he has much experience in this line, for he was a police officer in the great industrial city of Dusseldorf during and after the first world war.

He was so successful as a police officer that the big businessmen who bossed the city made him Lord Mayor in 1924, a post which he held until 1933, when he was arrested by mistake by the nazis, and held in prison for a short period.

It was just before his arrest that Dr. Lehr signed the anti-Semitic order reproduced on page 1.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

Subscriptions rates: 4 marks, 8/- sterling $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, postage paid.

Subscriptions may be paid at the following addresses:

Democratic Germany: At all post offices.

Britain: Collet's Subscription Dept, 40 Great Russell St., London W. C. 1

Holland: Pegasus Boekhandel. Leidsestraat 25, Amsterdam. (Fl. 2.50 annually).

Denmark: Land og Folks Boghandel, Bredgade 37, Copenhagen.

Australasia: A. Keesing, G. P. O. Box No. 4886, Sydney, Australia.

China: Guozi Shudian, 38 Suchou Hutung, Peking.

Nigeria: Tenimasunwon, 6 Oroyinyin St., Lagos.

All other communications should be addressed to:

Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167 III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

All material in GERMAN REPORT may be freely reprinted. Voucher copies of reprints would be appreciated.

They did not charge him with any sort of anti-nazi activity, but with various forms of corruption in office, and once he had shown that he was just as nazi-minded as the worst of them they let him go again.

During the course of the nazi investigation in the Dusseldorf District Court, Robert Lehr submitted a long and windy memorandum to show just how militaristic and reactionary he was. His memorandum, contained in file No. 3 J 244/33, 1933, of the Dusseldorf District Court, gives a mass of interesting information about a man who is today one of the most powerful figures in West Germany. Here are a number of extracts, all given in Robert Lehr's own words:

"My biggest job (during World War I, ed.) was in the field of the political police, in the fight against the radical movement, against Anarchists and Syndicalists, Independent Socialists and later against the Spartacus movement.

"The engineering workers in Dusseldorf became more and more opposed to the war the longer it lasted. I realised that it was no use using half measures against this agitation, and the responsible quarters in the Military Command Post VII AK held the same opinion.

"Despite obstacles I took energetic measures. In addition to a regular precensorship of the 'Volkszeitung' and observation of meetings I set up a widespread net of informers. As a result of what I learned, the active leaders were taken into protective custody.

"In the weeks preceding the outbreak of the revolution (the 1918 revolution against the Kaiser which ended World War I, ed.) I reinforced the police with experienced police officers called back from the front, and armed them with machine guns and hand-grenades.

"In addition, to deal with large scale disturbances, we stationed a storm battalion in Dusseldorf ...

"The two months which followed were so frightful that they completely exhausted me in body and soul. The Workers' and Soldiers' Council disarmed the police force three times, and my police force began to be infected. Our most urgent task was to restore as quickly as possible the military authorities which had been abolished ...

"What I have related above shows that I always stood up for a really nationalistic policy, a policy which was fully in accordance with the policy of the new Reich."

Soon after writing his autobiography, Robert Lehr was released by the nazis, and was fully rehabilitated in 1938, when the nazi city authorites named him "Citizen of Honour" of Dusseldorf. Throughout the war he continued to sit on the board of a number of Ruhr industrial companies, drawing big directors fees from the huge armaments business being done.

After the nazi capitulation in 1945 Robert Lehr found that his short prison term in 1933 came in very handy, since he could claim to be a "proved anti-nazi", and was rewarded with a leading position in the newly formed police force in the British Zone.

In 1950 he became West German Minister of the Interior, and since that date has done just what he did as long ago as 1918 — set up a widespread net of informers, and taken the leaders of the peace movement into custody.

But 1953 is not 1918, and the people of West Germany are showing every day that they do not intend to tolerate a new 1933 in which Dr Lehr could again take part in the persecution of Jews and "Marxists".

Footnote. The Hamburg newspaper "Hamburger Volkszeitung" printed in a recent issue extracts from Dr. Lehr's memorandum quoted above. As a result Emil Carlebach, veteran anti-fascist who spent eleven years in Hitler's prisons and concentration camps has been charged with "undermining the democratic basis of the (West) German Federal Republic" and will appear on this charge before a Hamburg court in the near future.

Nazi Tank Expert Shows Yanks How

Nazi ex-Captain G. A. Weidemann, who commanded one of Hitler's tank formation in the battle of France in 1940, is now engaged in giving tank instruction to officers of an American tank division stationed in Bad Kreuznach, West Germany, the newspaper "Rheinpfalz" reported on April 23rd. "Other former officers of the Wehrmacht hold regular lectures at the invitation of the Americans" the paper stated.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

On another page of this issue the question of the war propaganda being spread by certain reactionary clergymen in the German Democratic Republic is dealt with at length.

Of course the action taken against certain clergymen here — for offences against the criminal code, and not for their religious activities — has been played up in some western newspapers as a "war against the churches".

Naturally all the old weapons of distortion have been brought into play, and one of the worst offenders is the "Manchester Guardian", which once had something of a reputation as a newspaper which held to the precept "Comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Facts Sacred?

These days facts are far from sacred, I am afraid. On April 18th a long article from the Manchester Guardian correspondent in Bonn dealt with this alleged war against the churches:

"The latest attack on the churches by the newspaper 'Junge Welt' includes the naming of various pastors . . . Thus the Evangelical Pator Hamel of Halle University is accused of having urged his flock to vote for Christian Democratic candidates in political elections."

Now this looked very phoney to me, so I looked through the files of the "Junge Welt" to discover what it had actually said. There was in fact a longish article on Pastor Johannes Hamel of Halle in the issue of April 15th. I read it through once. I read it through twice. I gave it to my assistant to read through once more. In the whole article there was not a single mention of the Christian Democratic Union, or Christian Democratic candidates.

Government Party

It would have course have been very surprising if Pastor Hamel had been attacked for supporting the Christian Democratic Union, since it is one of the leading parties in East Germany, and is prominently represented in the Government by Deputy Premier Otto Nuschke.

Pastor Hamel was actually accused of quite different things. He had been active in importing into East Germany all sorts of war propaganda pamphlets, for instance, and distributing West German neo-nazi articles whipping up racial hatred. But these charges were not suitable for the "Manchester Guardian" correspondent, so he simply invented some and attributed them to the "Junge Welt."

Incidentally in the same "Manchester Guardian" article there is internal evidence that the correspondent in question either cannot read, does not understand German, or just does not care a damn. Dealing with the case of Schloss Mansfeld, in East Germany, which was found to be an American spy centre, he states, quoting again the "Junge Welt" as his source:

"The officials at Schloss Mansfeld are accused of having paid their agents with rubber boots and tins of American cocoa."

The only mention of anything similar in the original article is the sentence:

"Great stores of American and West German foodstuffs and consumer goods were found in the Schloss. Everything was there, from Hovinol Fat and Van Houtens Cocoa to rubber soles stamped with the words 'U.S Army'."

Next time this correspondent has to go and write a story about a flood, I hope somebody just gives him a pair of rubber soles, instead of the rubber boots he is shouting for.

It is a small point of course, but if he does not know the difference between soles and boots, I am inclined to doubt his evidence when it comes to weightier things.

New Blue Suit

I was working at home, writing the last few preceding paragraphs, when there was a ring at the door. It was the 14 year old boy from the neighbouring apartment, looking very stiff, starched and grown-up in a brand new blue suit and squeaky shoes, with his hair unusually brushed down.

He had come to introduce himself in his new outfit, which he had just got to wear at confirmation service. The German Protestant Church makes a big affair out of confirmation, which is always celebrated with a new suit or dress, and a big family party.

Like many 14 year olds, my neighbour is rather tongue-tied, but when I told him what I had just been writing about he became suddenly very talkative.

"What silly people they must be, to write things like that" he said. "The church has to look after religious things, and has no right to mix up in politics. That's what our pastor says. And I think he is right."

Plenty of Chance

This 14 year old lad is one of the many thousands of boys and girls who will be finishing his schooling in the next few months. In many western countries his parents would be searching anxiously for a good apprenticeship for him — and probably not finding one.

Here there is no difficulty. On the contrary, various factories and trades compete hard to get the school-leavers to come and work in their plants.

For instance, this morning on the way to work, I saw a big new window display in the department store on Alexander Platz; there was a lathe, and beside it a show of simple and then increasingly more intricate tools made by apprentices in the workshops of the nationally owned Berlin Tool Factory.

"Come and learn a trade here, and then go on in two years to the Workers' and Peasants' Faculty at Technical University to take your engineering exams" the window display said.

Not Tea-Brewers

And apprenticeship is of course not used here as a method of getting cheap help to sweep out the workshop and brew tea. Every apprentice receives wages, low at first, but steadily increasing as he becomes better qualified, and any factory director trying to use his apprentices as unskilled labour would soon find himself in conflict with the law.

In addition, of course, every boy and girl is sure of finding a good job waiting when he finishes his studies, and if he or she shows promise then there is a good chance that he will find himself one of the 50,000 students at the Workers' and Peasants' Faculty of the university.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8. Telephone: 22 62 69. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 752 des Presseamtes der DDR